

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 7, 2004. Claims 18 and 20-38 are pending in the Application, Claim 18 stands rejected, Claims 32 and 35-38 have been allowed, and Claims 19-31, 33, and 34 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Claims 18, 20, 21, and 28 are amended and Claim 19 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present Amendment.

Summarizing the outstanding Office Action, Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hodapp (U.S. Patent No. 3,608,935, hereinafter “Hodapp”).

In view of the allowable subject matter, Claim 18 has been amended to recite the subject matter of Claim 19, now canceled. In view of this, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-summarized anticipation rejection is now moot and all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance.

The proposed amendment to Claim 18 should be entered by the Examiner because it is supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and does not add any new matter to this application. Further, the amendment does not raise new issues or require a further search. Finally, if the Examiner determines that the amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance, entry is respectfully requested upon filing of a Notice of Appeal.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

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condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 18 and 20-38 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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